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DAWLISH
URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1938

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Dawlish Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT
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Medical Officer of Health
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Area and Population.—The District, which includes the outlying villages of Holcombe and Cofton, has an acreage of 5408, and for the purpose of calculating the various rates the Registrar General estimates the population (mid 1938) at 5455, an increase of 65.

The number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) was 2156, an increase of 101. This gives an average of 2.5 persons per house.

Dawlish is a rapidly growing seaside resort, and other than farming, market gardening and catering for visitors, there are no industries.

Rateable value, £46,558. A penny rate produces £192.

The Sanitary Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time), Deputy M.O.H. (Dr. H. A. Constable), the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined appointment, whole time), and the Surveyor's Clerk (whole time). In addition a temporary Housing Surveyor was appointed to carry out the work under the Housing Acts.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

		M.	F.	Total	
Live Births	Legitimate	25	22	48	= Rate of 9.5 per 1000
	Illegitimate	1	—		

Average rate for the last 10 years, 9.5

England and Wales Birth Rate, 15.1

Still Births	Legitimate	1	—	1	= Rate of 20.4 per 1000 births live and still
	Illegitimate	—	—		

Deaths	29	49	78 = Rate of 14.2 per 1000 (crude)

* Corrected Death Rate, 10 per 1000

England and Wales Death Rate, 11.6

Maternal Mortality (child birth), Nil

Infantile Mortality (under 1 year) :—

Legitimate Infants	1	—	1	= Rate of 21.2 per 1000 legitimate live births
Illegitimate Infants	—	—		

Death Rate of all Infants per 1000 live births, 20.8

Do. do. England and Wales, 53

Deaths from Cancer, 13 ; Measles, 0 ; Whooping Cough, 0 ;
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 1.

* Correcting factor .71

Causes of Death in 1938

	M.	F.
All Causes	29	49
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1
Kidney Disease	2	2
Senility	1	2
Other Violence	1	1
Other Defined Diseases	4	2
Diabetes	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	7
Heart Disease	7	8
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	7
Bronchitis	1	2
Pneumonia	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	1
Phthisis	4	3
Cancer	3	10

Health Services of the District

Isolation Hospital.—By arrangement with the Exeter Corporation, cases of Infectious Disease are sent, when necessary, to the Isolation Hospital at Whipton. Speedy removal is effected by Motor Ambulance. Four cases of Scarlet Fever and two cases of Diphtheria were sent there during the year.

Cottage Hospital for general diseases contains 18 beds and 2 cots. During the year 229 in-patients and 517 out-patients were treated.

Ambulance Facilities.—The town possesses a Motor Ambulance, provided and maintained by voluntary contributions. It is operated and staffed by Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Also a First Aid Station on the Warren.

Provision for Smallpox, together with means of removal, is made by the County Council.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Midwives' Act is administered by the County Council. There is one private practising midwife in the District.

Health Visiting of children under school age is done by the County Council Health Visitor, who is also Nurse-in-charge of the Welfare Centre and School Clinic. During the year 462 homes were visited ; 198 visits were paid to children up to 1 year old ; and 400 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. The District Nursing Association, subscribed to by the Local Authority, maintains the services of two nurses, both qualified C.M.B.

The Infant Welfare Centre in Hatcher Street, in rooms provided by Mrs. Avant-Washington, is administered by the County Council, with the help of a Local Committee.

Sessions are held weekly on Wednesday afternoon, and the Doctor attends fortnightly. Tea is provided for the mothers during the session.

The County Council makes grants of milk to necessitous mothers when considered desirable on medical grounds, and dried milk and other food preparations can be obtained at special rates.

A successful year's work can again be recorded.

Statistics for the Year :

Numbers on the Register : Mothers 90, Toddlers 65, Infants 58.
Average attendance per Session : Mothers 27, Toddlers 21,
Infants 15.

There were 45 Sessions.

This is a noteworthy increase on previous figures.

Orthopædic Treatment is provided in the District and throughout the County by the Devonian Association for Cripples Aid. The Hospital is at Exeter, and Out-patient Clinics are established at convenient centres.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

Water Supply.—The negotiations with Lord Mamhead's agents for the acquisition of the water rights on 120 acres of land in the parish of Cofton, which were commenced in January, 1937, were concluded, and the agreement signed on 1st April last year. As this date was too late in the year to give any chance of completing the whole scheme before the annual shortage of water began, a great effort was made to provide a temporary additional supply to tide over the peak of the summer season.

These efforts were successful inasmuch as the temporary pumps started work at the beginning of August and continued to the end of October, by which time the increase in rain, and the decrease in population, had brought supply and demand to normal proportions. Though described as temporary, some of the work, notably the mains, will be included in the major scheme, which, if all goes well, should be completed before the end of this year.

Sewerage.—Apart from the extension of the sewer to the Council's Housing Site at Oakhill, no alterations or other extensions were made to the system.

Owing to the rapid development of the town during the last few years and the increase in population, the main sewers, which have done good service for about 50 years, are at last beginning to show signs of inability to cope with present day needs. The increased water supply and larger consumption will doubtless aggravate the state of affairs, and the Council is quite rightly giving its attention and consideration to ways and means of providing a remedy. Expert opinion will be called in, and in due course a decision will be taken.

Scavenging.—Refuse is removed by lorries, of which there are two, twice a week in the town and once in the outskirts. It is deposited at Week, on the Exeter Road, where it is treated by covering with soil.

Schools.—The three Elementary Schools of the town accommodate at present about 430 children. Senior 168, Junior 138, Infants 121.

The sanitary condition of all three schools is satisfactory.

Camping Sites.—There were 7 sites used for camping last summer, 6 of which were licensed for that purpose. The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during last summer was 1685.

All camps have a sufficient water supply and sanitary accommodation.

Frequent visits of inspection are made.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	45		
Factories without mechanical power ...	19	1	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	28		
Total ...	92	1	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	4	4		
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...				
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...				
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	1	1		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	1	1		
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) :—				
insufficient ...				
unsuitable or defective...	1	1		
not separate for sexes ...				
Other offences ...				
Total ...	7	7		

HOUSING

The second part of the Council's scheme, comprising 50 houses of various types, was commenced on the Oakhill Site during the summer, and at the time of writing 28 have been finished and occupied. The remainder, now in course of erection, should be completed at an early date.

The types of house included in the 50 are :—

Four bedroom type	...	5	} All non-parlour
Three ,, ,,	...	35	
Two ,, ,, (bungalow)	...	6	
One ,, ,, ,,	...	4	

The site, lay-out, and the houses and gardens themselves have a most attractive appearance, and if they prove as good as they look, both inside and out, it is a lucky family that gets the chance of living in one. When all are built and occupied, the Council's Slum Clearance and Housing Scheme for the Town will be complete.

Altogether, under the 1930 Act, 90 houses will have been built, housing 385 persons.

The 74 houses built under previous Acts house approximately 350 persons, making a grand total of 164 houses, accommodating approximately 735 persons.

The annual cost to the District is £960 8s. 3d. per annum, making a rate of 5d. in the £.

After many delays the 12 houses of agricultural type to be built in the parish of Cofton have just been started. If all goes well, they should be finished and occupied by the end of the summer.

The following is a table setting out the work done under the various Housing Acts during the year :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	163
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...		463
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	None
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...		None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	11
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	None

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit
in consequence of informal action by the Local
Authority or their officers ...

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a).—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the
Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|---|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring repairs | ... | 15 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered
fit after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | 15 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | None |

(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | | |
|--|-----|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to be
remedied | ... | None |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were
remedied after service of formal notices :— | | |
| (a) By owners | ... | None |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | ... | None |

(c).—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the
Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|--|-----|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made | ... | 7 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur-
suance of Demolition Orders | ... | 7 |

(d).—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing
Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|--|-----|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
made | ... | None |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
determined, the tenement or room having been
rendered fit | ... | None |

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a).— (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	3
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	3
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	18
(b).—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	12
(c).— (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	12
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	52
(d).—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	None
(e).—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	None

Disinfestation.—The practice of ensuring that all tenants of Council Houses start free of vermin was continued, and the furniture and effects of 67 families passed through the cyanide van before entering the new houses. The vacated houses also were thoroughly treated with some form of insecticide. The work was carried out by contract, and up to date no recurrence of the trouble has come to light.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—This is administered by the Police. Six samples were taken during the year, all of milk, and all passed the test.

Milk.—Though it shows a considerable improvement on the year before, the general standard of cleanliness of the Milk Supply is far from being satisfactory. This, in view of the large amount of time spent in visiting “failures” and pointing out defects in milking methods, is very disappointing. Of the 31 samples produced in the District, and tested at the County Council Laboratory at Exeter, 18 passed and 13 failed.

Of Milk produced outside the District, 9 samples passed and 8 failed. The shippings, on the whole, are good and, with the possible exception of one, have a sufficient supply of water.

In all there are 20 milk producers, 11 of whom sell by retail. Seventeen sell Ordinary milk, one Tuberculin Tested, and two Accredited but as far as cleanliness is concerned, they are all about the same.

Slaughter Houses, of which there are four, were visited from time to time, and I found nothing to take exception to.

Bakehouses, Milk Shops, Fish Shops, etc., were all visited at various times, and little was found to complain of. The worst feature of most of these places is lack of space at the back. This results in poor lighting and makes cleaning difficult.

Infectious Disease

Apart from a few cases of Measles in the Infants School in the spring of the year, infectious epidemic disease has been practically absent.

Cases of notifiable disease were also few and far between, there being 8 in all, 6 of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria.

Three of the Scarlet Fever cases occurred in one family in Cockwood, and the two Diphtheria cases in visitors shortly after their arrival in August. One in a camp.

Scarlet Fever ages : 12, 9, 5, 4, 2½, 2½.

Diphtheria ages : 21, 17.

Disease		Cases	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...	6	4	
Diphtheria	...	2	2	

Immunisation against Diphtheria is offered by the Council, free of charge, to all children of school age and under, but the practical absence of the disease during the year gave no chance of getting a sufficient response if an immunisation campaign had been started. Should the necessary stimulus appear, action would be taken forthwith.

Tuberculosis.—Five cases were notified during the year, and there were 7 deaths. All were lung cases. There are about 45 tuberculous persons residing in the District, of whom 35 are lung cases.

All new cases are visited in order that the housing conditions of the patient may be inspected, and to advise other inmates of the house on the infectious nature of the disease.

A visit is also paid after death to give advice about disinfection.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...								
1—5 ...								
5—15 ...								
15—25 ...	1	1				1		
25—35 ...								
35—45 ...		1			1	1		
45—55 ..	1				2			
55—65 ...		1			1		1	
65 and upwards								
Totals ...	2	3			4	2	1	

W. H. SCOTT,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT

of

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

Dairies Inspected	...	...	20
Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	20
Milkshops Inspected	...	...	11
Samples of Milk taken for Analysis		...	48
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	7
Slaughter Houses Inspected	...	...	4
Laundries Inspected	...	...	2
Workshops Inspected	...	...	24
Intimation Notices served	...	...	3
Houses drained or partly drained		...	32
Additions to existing property	...	...	39
New Houses erected	...	...	80
Number of feet of drain laid	...	...	7210
Number of visits made	...	...	495
Number of Lorry loads of scavenge collected	...		1672

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR 1938

The Station, which is approved by the Air Ministry and maintained by the Council, is under the supervision of the Surveyor, and is situated at the entrance of the Lawn, 50.25 N. latitude and 3.27 longitude, and 16.60 feet above sea level.

All observations are taken at 9 a.m., Greenwich mean time, daily, and contain the following instruments :—

1. Stevenson's Screen, containing Dry and Wet Bulb Thermometers, with Maximum and Minimum Thermometers. The Bulbs of Hygrometers are placed four feet above ground and are of standard make.

2. Self-recording Aneroid Barometer.

3. Self-recording Vacuum Thermometers, black and bright.

4. Grass Minimum Thermometer.

5. Rain Gauge, Casella's diameter of gauge five inches, height above sea level 16.60 feet and 12 inches above ground.

6. Sunshine Recorder, Stokes Campbell, fixed on parapet of Burrows Reservoir.

TABLE 1

RAINFALL in Inches—Taken at the Sports Field

Month	Total Fall	Wet Days	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours	Date
January ...	4.46	24	.76	14
February ...	.99	10	.30	25
March ...	.23	4	.16	24
April ...	.16	2	.09	23
May ...	2.26	18	.39	29
June ...	1.13	14	.35	1
July ...	2.89	14	1.14	6
August ...	4.20	14	1.81	4
September ...	1.07	11	.38	19
October ...	3.35	18	.40	1
November ...	6.29	20	1.29	25
December ...	3.57	25	.70	13
	30.60	174	1.81 on 4th August	

The Rainfall is measured each day at 9 a.m., Greenwich mean time, for the 24 hours period, and the amount booked to the previous day. Rain day = 0.04 or more inches.

TABLE 2
SUNSHINE—in Hours

Month	Total	Daily Mean	Greatest Amount in 24 Hours	Date	Sunless days
January ...	58·1	1·9	8·2	27	13
February ...	71·1	2·5	8·9	20	10
March ...	174·8	5·6	11·9	14	2
April ...	228·5	7·6	13·0	18	2
May ...	162·7	5·2	13·9	21	7
June ...	254·2	8·4	15·2	21	—
July ...	216·9	7·0	14·5	2	1
August ...	184·8	6·0	13·1	21	3
September ...	135·8	4·5	11·9	2	—
October ...	98·6	3·2	8·2	21	4
November ..	59·2	1·9	7·1	29	12
December ...	48·3	1·5	5·2	20	16
	1693·0	4·6	15·2 on 21st June		70

TABLE 3
SHADE TEMPERATURES (deg. Fahr. in Shade at 4ft.)

Month	Max. Mean	Min. Mean	M. & M. Mean	Range	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
January ...	50·4	39·1	44·7	11·3	59·9	30	34·0	1 & 11
February ...	48·2	37·2	42·7	11·0	55·8	4	30·7	18
March ...	57·2	41·9	44·5	15·3	64·0	26 & 31	28·0	6
April ...	58·9	38·6	48·7	20·3	65·0	8	30·0	18 & 11
May ...	60·0	45·0	52·7	15·0	69·0	23	36·7	9
June ...	67·0	51·4	59·4	15·6	76·2	25	42·0	5
July ...	68·4	52·9	66·0	15·5	72·0	11 & 25	42·7	1
August ...	69·6	56·7	63·1	12·9	76·8	4	46·2	30
September ...	67·3	51·1	59·2	16·2	79·0	13	41·0	16
October ...	62·1	49·8	55·9	12·3	67·0	10	40·0	31
November ...	58·1	46·3	52·2	11·8	65·8	5	31·7	30
December ...	47·6	38·1	42·8	9·5	56·0	1	21·0	20
	59·5	45·7	52·6	13·8	79·0 on Sep 13		21·0 on Dec 20	

TABLE 4
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

Month	Mean of Month	Highest	Lowest	Range of Pressure
January ...	29.98	30.60	28.90	1.17
February ...	30.34	30.57	29.70	.87
March ...	30.40	30.80	29.77	1.03
April ...	30.43	30.80	30.17	.63
May ...	30.05	30.47	29.60	.87
June ...	30.22	30.97	29.80	1.17
July ...	30.07	30.40	29.57	.83
August ...	30.11	30.47	29.75	.72
September ...	30.07	30.40	29.70	.70
October ...	29.95	30.32	29.40	.92
November ...	29.89	30.60	29.10	1.50
December ...	29.87	30.40	29.20	1.20
	30.11	30.97	28.90	2.07

TABLE 5
WIND DIRECTION—on Number of Days

Month	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Total
January ...	—	—	—	1	—	21	3	6	31
February ...	3	6	—	—	4	10	4	1	28
March ...	—	3	—	3	2	14	4	5	31
April ...	2	10	—	1	—	3	4	10	30
May ...	1	6	1	8	1	7	3	4	31
June ...	—	1	1	8	2	16	1	1	30
July ...	—	2	—	7	4	16	2	—	31
August ...	2	2	—	4	6	5	3	9	31
September ...	—	1	—	7	1	9	1	11	30
October ...	—	—	—	2	1	21	4	3	31
November ...	—	1	—	5	2	21	1	—	30
December ...	1	2	—	4	—	19	2	3	31
	9	34	2	50	23	162	32	53	365

SUMMARY

TEMPERATURES

Mean Maximum Temperature	...	59.5
Mean Minimum Temperature	...	45.7
Mean Maximum and Minimum Temperature	...	52.6
Mean Range of Temperature	...	13.8
Warmest Month, August, Mean Temperature	...	69.6
Highest Maximum Temperature, on 13th September		79.0
Coldest Month, February, Mean Temperature	...	37.2
Lowest Minimum Temperature, on 20th December		21.0

RAINFALL

Total Rainfall, Sports Field, for Year	...	30.60 inches
Total Rain Days	...	174
Total Rainfall at Thorns	...	35.91 inches
Wettest Month, November	...	6.29 ,,
Wettest Day, 4th August	...	1.81 ,,

SUNSHINE

Total Hours of Sunshine	...	1693.0 hours
Daily Mean for Year	...	4.6 ,,
Sunniest Month, June	...	254.2 ,,
Sunniest Day, 21st June	...	15.2 ,,
Sunless Days	...	70

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

Mean for Year	...	30.11
Range of Pressure	...	2.07
Highest Reading	...	30.97
Lowest Reading	...	28.90

WIND DIRECTIONS

N. 9, N.E. 34, E. 2, S.E. 50, S. 23, S.W. 162, W. 32,
N.W. 53.

(Signed) H. G. FERRETT,
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

